(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that the Indian farmers have demanded that no indigenous technique, which is adaptive to changing climate, should be allowed to be patented;

(c) if so, whether Government is taking any measures to thwart patenting of such indigenous varieties in the interest of Indian farmers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) No, Sir. The varieties of coarse grains are excluded from patenting under India's Patents Act 1970, as amended up to date.

According to this Act's provision in Section 3(j), the inventions relating to plants in whole or any part thereof including seeds, varieties and species and essentially biological processes for production or propagation of plants are not patentable. However, plant varieties are protected under the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Act, 2001.

Therefore, even if any application for patent claiming varieties of coarse grains is filed by any person or entity, whether domestic or foreign, the same can not be allowed for the grant of patent.

(b) No, Sir. No such information is available according to Government of India's Patent Office and Department of Agriculture and Cooperation.

(c) and (d) The Question does not arise.

New rail line projects in Rajasthan

*307. DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether her Ministry has not accepted the proposal of some new rail line projects in Rajasthan because of paucity of funds; and

(b) looking to the poor railway network in the State whether Government is going to accept the projects to link Bhiwadi to Delhi-Ahmedabad Broad Guage railway line and Jaisalmer to Sanu for industrial, mining and tourism development of the State?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) and (b) Rajasthan has the second largest route kilometres among all the states of the country. Projects for new line are sanctioned based upon their financial viability, operational advantages, regional development, socio-economic considerations, etc.

An updating survey for a new line linking Bhiwadi to Delhi-Ahmedabad BG line (27 kms) has been completed recently. As per the survey report, the cost of this new line has been assessed as Rs. 153.73 crore. North Western Railway has been asked to review the cost of the proposed new line. A separate survey for Jaisalmer-Sanu (25 kms) new Broad Gauge (BG) line has not been taken up.